

The Sun

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1913.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	\$6.00
DAILY, Per Year	60.00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2.50
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	62.50
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	5.25

THE EVENING SUN, Per Month, 25c.
THE EVENING SUN, Per Year, 2.50.

Postage to foreign countries added.
All checks, money orders, &c., to be made payable to THE SUN.

Published daily, including Sunday, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.
President and Treasurer, William C. Herrick, 170 Nassau street; Vice President, Edward P. Mitchell, 170 Nassau street; Secretary, C. E. Linton, 170 Nassau street.

London office, 11 Abchurch Lane, 1 Abchurch Lane, Strand.
Paris office, 6 Rue de la Michodière, off Rue du Quatre Septembre.
Washington office, 1115 Building.
Brooklyn office, 106 Livingston street.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations for publication wish to have their articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The deadby the Ohio and Indiana floods may seem the happiest to the multitudes, 250,000 in Ohio alone, of the living, homeless, helpless, all but hopeless. A great region where splendid cities, towns and humble villages alike are without resource; a region of broken dams and embankments; placid rivers gone mad in flood, bridgeless, uncontrollable, widened into lakes, into seas; a region where people are huddled shivering on hills or house-tops, watching the swelling waters; where practically every convenience, means of communication, comfort, appliance of civilization has been wiped out or stopped; where there is little to eat and no way of getting food save from the country beyond the waters; a wide range of ruin where fire works by the side of its old enemy; and hunger, thirst and sickness are ready to crown and consummate the disaster.

And still the rain falls pitilessly. Of the capital lost, the prosperities destroyed, it is not now the time to think. Nor of the dead. Let us succor and save the living. Food, clothing, shelter, medicines for the stricken West!

The Ex-Emergency Tax.

From Washington come divers soothing sayings as to the limit of exception, rate and expected amount of that great "emergency" tax which the master economists of the House are placidly preparing to lay when the country enjoys and seems likely long to enjoy the profound peace.

Shall the ex-emergency tax be plain or shall it be graduated, as Populists, Socialists, Mr. Roosevelt and other thinkers have proposed?

The strength of the income tax in the United States rests upon its mulcting of a minority for the supposed benefit of a majority. It will be evaded by many, it will be shifted by many; but it can be collected from the salaried man, who as Senator Root said in 1909 "is in the employment of a few years of earning capacity—it may be ten or twenty or thirty—when he is turning into money his brains and his nerves and his life." His usually modest income can always be traced and taxed.

As for "equality" of taxation, the generous souls who hope for that in the case of the ex-emergency tax are referred to the high reasoning by which the income tax amendment was passed, 80 to 30, by the Arkansas House. "The large majority," said a Little Rock despatch to THE SUN of January 25, 1911, "was won with the argument that under the amendment Arkansas would have to pay only \$1 to every \$1,000,000 paid by New York, thereby equalizing the taxation of the rich."

One is reminded of the indignant eloquence of the sheik, plaintiff before a British Judge in the Sudan: "Come away! Is this justice? Why, he listens to the other side!"

General Savoff's Triumph at Adrianople.

With the fall of Adrianople the conflict in the Balkans logically ends. In their practice manoeuvres before the war the Turks recognized the supreme importance of that fortress and it was made the objective of divisions representing a Bulgarian army of invasion. At the London conference disagreement about the terms of surrender alone prevented the conclusion of peace.

Monastir, Salonica, Janina and now Adrianople having been taken and occupied by the allies, and the future of Scutari determined by the Powers, further operations by the Turks at the Thracian lines would be fatuous, unless the Bulgarians were bent on pushing their campaign to the gates of Constantinople. But since the Powers would not allow Bulgaria to retain the capital of the Turkish Empire a grand assault upon the Thracian defences would serve no rational purpose and the casualties would be tremendous. If Adrianople had been held out an advance by the Bulgarians would have become imperative at last, unless the renewed peace negotiations had proved successful.

The remarkable campaign of General SAVOFF was practically finished when he completed the investment of Adrianople and forced the Turks back on the Thracian lines, the last strong defence of Constantinople. The Bulgarians and Servians, entrenched along the Turkish front, could have been driven in on their reserves or outflanked only by a greatly superior force, and at Thracian

IZZET Pasha has never had more than 150,000 effectives.

To make sure that their investment of Adrianople would not be disturbed from the direction of the Gallipoli peninsula the Allies posted a strong covering force to prevent an advance by FAKHRI Pasha. He was effectually held there. Successful operations by the Turks in that quarter would have compelled General SAVOFF to retire from Thracian lines and would have given IZZET Pasha an opportunity to advance and make a fight for the relief of Adrianople. Plainly this was the only strategy by which the Turks could turn the tide of war and redeem themselves; the Bulgarian commander therefore made elaborate preparations to cope with it.

When the history of this part of the campaign is written it will probably be found that the Allies had to do comparatively little fighting to hold their own positions and restrain the Turks in theirs. Originally it was not the intention of General SAVOFF to attempt the capture of Adrianople by assault. It served his purpose to bottle up SUKRI Pasha, repel sorties, of which two or three were made for strategic reasons before the town was completely surrounded, and to harass the garrison by severe bombardments. The strength of the investing army has been put at 90,000 to 100,000 men; at Thracian the troops of the Allies numbered not less than 180,000 men and perhaps as many as 200,000; no estimate of their strength on the Bulair lines has been published, but even with reinforcements from Constantinople FAKHRI Pasha found himself checkmated and impotent.

In the second stage of the war General SAVOFF has again proved himself a masterly strategist.

Fundamental Principles and an Andamanese Proverb.

Governor SULZER's bold and beautiful words to the assembled editors at Albany Tuesday night should ring and sing in every patriotic ear and heart even as late as this Thursday morning:

"Let me say again that I stand now where I always have stood, and where I always will stand—for certain fundamental principles, for freedom of speech, for the right of lawful assembly, for the freedom of the press, for liberty under law; for constitutional government, for civil and religious freedom, for equality and justice to all, for the reserved rights of the States, for home rule and local self-government, for equal rights to every one and special privileges to no one, and for unshaken opportunity as the beacon light of individual hope and the best guarantee for the perpetuity of our free institutions."

"No man in all this land is a greater believer than I am in the doctrine of home rule as a fundamental right."

May his palsied hand cling to his mouth who dares to doubt this glorious creed, who would snatch one golden word from this entire and perfect chrysolite. On certain fundamental principles everybody will stand with no uncertain feet. When it comes to applying those principles, when a concrete act has to emerge from the misty benevolence of rhetoric, then do statesmen and orators too often fall down hard from their fundamental principles.

Sometimes even the freedom of speech and of the press, always hated by legislators, has been attacked at Albany and at Washington. Praters about State rights are usually hot to vote for the encroachment on those rights. Equality and justice for all are illustrated ironically every day in Congress and in the State Legislatures. Special privileges to none had one of its latest humorous echoes in the attempt of the Democrats at Washington to exempt farmers and laborers from the Sherman act.

As to home rule, what Governor, what Legislature doesn't revere and love it? As a fundamental right, that is, a motto lozenge, a sort of religious photograph on the wall. When the time comes of voting on or signing or vetoing a bill specifically and shamelessly violating home rule, then the fundamental right is seen to be for oratory only. It is fundamentally "left."

What says the Andamanese proverb? "A little backbone is worth thirteen trillion cubic miles of yawn." A proverb to be recommended to all in authority.

The Brooklyn Court House.

New York county has had a good many troubles about the site for its new court house; but now that these have been largely settled an acrimonious controversy has arisen in Brooklyn concerning the part of that borough in which a new court house for Kings county shall be erected.

An act of the Legislature passed some years ago directed the Supreme Court Justices residing in Brooklyn to recommend a site for the new Kings County Court House to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. This the Judges did, proposing a locality west of Court street, on what might be called the southern slope of Brooklyn Heights. This is a residential district, and the Judges' recommendation met with much opposition from the land owners whose property was to be taken, from neighboring land owners who feared injury to their possessions from the proximity of a great public building, and from persons whose real estate or other interests led them to prefer other localities. The action of the Judges, however, was only advisory; they were by no means strenuous in insisting upon any particular site; the Comptroller had not the necessary funds at the time to incur the expense of acquiring the land, and the municipal authorities permitted the project to lie on the table, as it were.

More recently, however, Brooklyn has been more or less agitated by a plan for making the borough a city beautiful. The district which has Brooklyn Hall, the old Brooklyn City Hall, as its most prominent feature is to be made a civic center approached by means of the bridge plaza, which is to be greatly enlarged, and upon the borders of which it is proposed to erect a number of fine public buildings. The promoters

of this movement, including many of Brooklyn's most public spirited citizens, want to place the new court house down near the bridge plaza, and they are very earnest about it. Meantime the Comptroller has announced that the city now has the money required to secure the site formerly recommended by the Supreme Court Justices; and the question of where to put the new court house is again being actively discussed.

The question is one which ought to be carefully considered by the citizens of Brooklyn and determined with care; but we observe with regret that the advocacy of the bridge plaza site is characterized by extraordinary acrimony toward the Judges because they ventured to recommend a different locality. One would suppose, from the sarcasm and slurs directed against these officers, that they had been actuated solely by a desire to do what was detrimental to the interests of the public. Yet we think no intelligent person can really approve of the insinuations which have thus been made against their good faith. In recommending a site they simply performed a duty which they were directed to perform by the Legislature. They are all of them men of recognized probity and integrity. Of course they may have made a mistake in their choice of a site—all men are liable to error—but there is no more reason to impugn their motives than there would be to attack the good faith of any other body of men to whom the selection of a site was committed.

In these days of emotional social and civic and political agitation the rule of the agitators seems to be, if you see a judicial head hit. We certainly hope that Brooklyn will soon get a new court house located in the very best place for it; but we also hope that the controversy concerning the site will proceed from this time on without any more of the unjust and outrageous flings at the Brooklyn Supreme Court Judges by those who dissent from their recommendation. It should be remembered that when that recommendation was made the movement in favor of a city beautiful had not acquired the prominence it now occupies in the public thought of the borough.

No Worthy Interest Hurt.

Mayor GAYNOR's refusal to approve of any application for an all night license to sell liquor may cause some inconvenience and annoyance to night workers and to travellers. Everybody will sympathize with these sufferers. But the general effect of his decision will be good.

Pleasure seekers wishing a bite and a sup after the theatre will have ample time to satisfy their appetites in restaurants whose bars close at 1 o'clock in the morning. It is worthy of notice that some of the most popular and prosperous restaurants have not found it necessary or desirable to sell liquor all night long to satisfy their customers.

The fact is that some of the licensed resorts, with their vaudeville shows and dance rooms, have become highly objectionable, catering to no real need of the community, but depending on the dissipated and foolish for their support. To shorten the hours of their activity is not to interfere unduly with the pleasures of the townsfolk.

The Appeal to the Nation.

President WILSON speaks in terms of moderation when he says that the floods in Ohio and Indiana "have assumed the proportions of a national calamity."

It is already known that there has been an appalling loss of life, and the estimates will grow with returns from inundated districts that have not yet reported; but the worst feature of the disaster that has overwhelmed two States with terrible suddenness is the extremity of a quarter of a million people who have been rendered homeless, losing everything they possessed. They must be fed, clothed and provided in many instances with medical aid.

It is a case for the promptest relief by the Federal Government, by Legislatures and by municipalities all over the country, while private contributions will also be urgently needed. President WILSON's appeal is to the nation. The American National Red Cross Society, which always does splendid work in the presence of disaster, will receive and use intelligently the money confided to it.

To be immediately available the relief must be well organized. In this city contributions may be sent, as Mayor GAYNOR proposes, to the Mayor at the City Hall, or to JACOB H. SCHIFF, treasurer of the American National Red Cross Society, at 54 William street, or to the office of that society at 106 East Twenty-third street. The duty of every one who can afford it is to give, "in however small a way," as the President says, and assume that the contribution will be helpful. The need is great; how great cannot be known for days.

In no part of the country should the response be so sympathetic and generous as in New York, which is blessed with immunity from such disasters and afflictions as are only too frequent in the Western States. We should make a common cause of prompt aid to our distressed fellow countrymen.

How deeply concerned for America a certain section of the British press would be if the Secretary of an executive department of our government were caught in a position like that of Sir FERDINAND ISAACS! And how particularly unpleasant all those revelations must be for some or all of the Marconi promoters!

In recommending an unnecessary brick road over the course of the Catskill aqueduct, to cost \$1,300,000 of the city's money, the Board of Water Supply undoubtedly has in mind the enormous savings that the town will make when the new water is turned on by reason of the disuse of expensive bottled water in the city departments. When the Ashokan water fills the mains the Fire Department will not be obliged, as it now is, to buy a special water for its employees to drink. Most citizens find the water the firemen use for extinguishing fires good enough for

all domestic purposes. The President of the Borough of Brooklyn will find Ashokan water as good as the costly beverage he drinks now, and so will the Commissioner of Bridges. The Civil Service Commission will not have to ask for \$140 to pay for irrigating its throats when the new supply is tapped, and the long way to pay for a useless but highly expensive brick road through the watershed.

Court twenty years, then marry. Headline in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The woman that deliberates is won.

While the reformers are about it let them arrange it so that there shall be good wages and sure pay for everybody, no lack of employment at any time. *Hartford Times.*

Who wants employment? The host and most leasured thinkers want steady high pay without employment. Work to the vulgar that have not the fine art of loafing.

Compelled to become a celebrity. News. So shrinking and so violet is this age.

View body turns to student life. Headline in Chicago Tribune.

Now for a minimum "curriculum."

If VICTOR BLUR does as well in administrative office as he did in time of war he will make a model record in Washington.

If the Hon. JAMES R. MANN has really discovered a nullifying error in the Public Buildings pork barrel he will have earned the non-partisan gratitude of the taxpayers all over the land.

Governor SULZER still talks as if he thinks the political subdivisions of a State hold the same relation to that State that the States hold to the Union. He never learned such a doctrine as that from the Hon. SILAS WRIGHT.

RASH CONCLUSIONS.

The Appeal of the Illinois Vice Commission to the Nerves.

To the EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The vice commission of the State of Illinois that has been so adroitly played out by the nerves of emotionists has made two conspicuous errors in its attempt to trace a relation between a low rate of industrial compensation and female chastity. It has failed to notice that the same rate of woman's degradation. It has also reduced her to the peculiarly revolting position of having with cold deliberation brought her soul to the low plane of a commercial commodity. Either error is fatal to the commission's aim, to wit, to reduce the as has been a decline as that from the Hon. SILAS WRIGHT.

It must be assumed to endow the crusade that these men have entered on with a basis of reason that every woman comes into the world with a chaste nature. That no bias of heredity or temperament has a part in her action, that she is born a Diana. That Aphrodite is in truth, so far as she is concerned, a Greek myth based not on the study of human nature but on moonshine. For emotionists this is easy to believe. That it is the effect of the State of Illinois that the conviction is hard headed and who have won their political empire and reached exalted stations as the Lieutenant-Governorship of a great State is too palpably palpable to delude even stupid credulity.

Had this movement owed its inception to the lubrication of a Sunday school teacher it would arouse the gentlemen who are now using their lungs and energy and the vital resources of sovereign States to push it. Having its origin with politicians it is likely to arouse the suspicion of the Sunday school teacher.

It is clear that these men, if they believe themselves, know nothing of history or art or poetry. It is reasonable to assume from their thesis that they know nothing of human nature. Of women it appears that they know nothing. They have "changed" into the world at a period antedating the Garden of Eden.

No man can trace the effect from the cause in this matter and say with assurance that he has found the exact cause from which the effect flows. It is not to be predicted on a personal experience that no man could reasonably be expected to have had, or having had would care publicly to acknowledge.

No man can state with positiveness that the effect he has claimed in this discussion flows from the cause to which it is assigned, for the reason that he is obliged to base his conclusions on the testimony of women who have acknowledged that they have sold their souls to the devil for money. Again, it would appear that the gentlemen have the saving grace of feminine modesty that would refuse to acknowledge it.

These gentlemen are like a child at play toying with a stick of dynamite. They are fackling with the vapor of empirical reform. They are not the most anxious to have the saving grace of feminine modesty that would refuse to acknowledge it.

A Sunday School Teacher.

NEW YORK, March 26.

"The Familiar Tale." Air from "The Mikado."

The printing law of the State of New York appears to have been especially well designed to promote extravagance and waste. The establishment of a Department of Efficiency and Economy is strongly recommended.—THE SUN, March 25.

When Tammany, that virtuous clan, The rule of New York State began, It soon did try

A plan whereby Much money could be fettered, For two decrees when bills dropped up, As printing must be stopped up, And thus great trouble has popped up, For lots of folks are nettled.

And I expect you all agree 'Twas money right to be decreed, And I am right

And you are right, All is not right as right might be.

This bright decree, you understand, Makes heaps of talk throughout the land, For every one, Each mother a son, Is equally affected. This SEN has shed its columns wide, The scheme to show up and deride, And altogether we decide Such tricks must be rejected.

And you'll agree, as I expect, That we are right so to object, For the SEN is a piece of junk, And you are right

That everything should be correct, Just what we want is Honesty, Efficiency, Economy and

No waste, no craft, Of raffleoff graft To raise Statewide contention, O Sulzer, Governor of this State, We voters and who pay the rate Demand that you and one at present Must pay this want attention.

I do believe I hear you say "You're right to argue in this way." Then you're all right And we're all right, You'll not be it right?

Hi! Hi! Hoory! Hoory! LEONARD STUART. NEW YORK, March 26.

OFFICE SEEKERS FEW.

Surprising Testimony of an Experienced Observer.

To the EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: It is matter of surprise, commented upon every day by old residents of the city, that so few applicants for minor Government positions have come here since the Administration changed. It was confidently expected, and the hotel and boarding house people counted on big profits from it, that a stampede of office seekers would come, hungry and thirsty for the spoils of a war so gloriously won by them last November.

Everybody recalled that in 1865, after the Democrats had been out in the cold a quarter of a century, and again in 1885, when the Republicans were out, the town was crowded with a multitude of strangers not averse to the acceptance of any old office, at any old salary, from that of Ambassador to England down to clerk, watchman or charwoman. It was a humiliating and embarrassing locality. The section referred to is less than the one two-hundredth part of the borough, yet there is this loud and constant talk of tremendous expenditure in a useless attempt at reclamation.

We are perfectly willing that the "beautifiers," politicians and interested owners should do the ornamentation at their own expense, but taxpayers here have about all they can attend to for the next twenty years. We look to the Comptroller to restrain the "beautifiers" and prevent spoliation to gratify aesthetic whims of dreamers and hopes of statesmen desiring newspaper notice for future use.

The tremendous outlay to be met by this borough, now laboring under an almost unbearable burden, leaves the margin that may be used for even the improvement of the present court house very small, to say nothing of a vast expenditure for the erection of a court house anywhere at present.

The assessed valuation of all real estate in this borough having been increased enormously, indeed to the limit of endurance, the great expenditure spoken of for the purpose specified would be simply criminal waste.

The city is not to be self-supporting for many years, and there is urgent need of the most rigid economy. We rely on the good sense of the Comptroller to stand between us and the carrying out of fanciful ideas of those having expensive notions of "artistic" localities, who, finding business slipping away, strongly advocate with the "beautifying" project a palatial court house near them, for the reason that "miserly loves company." The difference in the initial cost of these expensive buildings is "artistic" and "beautifying" would be simply criminal waste.

Trying to retain business in a locality where business cannot be done is futile. To attempt to outdo the city in the quality of its public buildings is a waste of money for all purposes and for all time, and we would have an end of silly suggestions about "beautifying" and foolishly trying to retain business where it can't stay.

BROOKLYN, March 25. J. C. BENNETT.

CITIZEN SOLDIERS.

Is "Democracy" Responsible for a Certain Negligence in Their Appearance?

To the EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Mr. James F. Archibald in his letter to THE SUN expressed the sentiments of many an ex-guardsmen and I hope of many of the present members of the National Guard regarding the conduct of the citizens in their general appearance. The parade which was held on Saturday last, that parade was considered, no doubt, something of a lark, but the same attitude seems to be held regarding other parades, with the possible exception of those in connection with the latter, as has been my experience in the New York Guard, are considered necessary evils, and when over a partial demilitarization seems to be the rule. Then is the time that the open blouse, non-regulation headgear and open trousers of the citizen can be seen, and military courtesies are thrown to the winds. The militiamen, then, dressed up for the benefit of his admirers and indeed is a laughing stock for foreigners.

The negligence military attitude on the part of the citizen soldiery which apparently has been the rule as far back as I can remember, is due to the prevailing "democracy" in the infantry organizations. The officers of each company have the same locker room as the "not-coms" and private soldiers, and the latter are known and addressed as Bill or Tom except on parade. To avoid unpopularity these company officers, elected by the company members, are rather more lenient than the regulations permit, and have really no hold on the men after the parade is over. Again, it would appear that some organizations to keep up the full strength will enlist weedy, misshapen youths whose talents are in the direction of dancing rather than efficiency on the drill floor and at maneuvers. That is, they are not the most anxious to have the saving grace of feminine modesty that would refuse to acknowledge it.

These gentlemen are like a child at play toying with a stick of dynamite. They are fackling with the vapor of empirical reform. They are not the most anxious to have the saving grace of feminine modesty that would refuse to acknowledge it.

It is a case for the promptest relief by the Federal Government, by Legislatures and by municipalities all over the country, while private contributions will also be urgently needed. President WILSON's appeal is to the nation. The American National Red Cross Society, which always does splendid work in the presence of disaster, will receive and use intelligently the money confided to it.

To be immediately available the relief must be well organized. In this city contributions may be sent, as Mayor GAYNOR proposes, to the Mayor at the City Hall, or to JACOB H. SCHIFF, treasurer of the American National Red Cross Society, at 54 William street, or to the office of that society at 106 East Twenty-third street. The duty of every one who can afford it is to give, "in however small a way," as the President says, and assume that the contribution will be helpful. The need is great; how great cannot be known for days.

In no part of the country should the response be so sympathetic and generous as in New York, which is blessed with immunity from such disasters and afflictions as are only too frequent in the Western States. We should make a common cause of prompt aid to our distressed fellow countrymen.

How deeply concerned for America a certain section of the British press would be if the Secretary of an executive department of our government were caught in a position like that of Sir FERDINAND ISAACS! And how particularly unpleasant all those revelations must be for some or all of the Marconi promoters!

In recommending an unnecessary brick road over the course of the Catskill aqueduct, to cost \$1,300,000 of the city's money, the Board of Water Supply undoubtedly has in mind the enormous savings that the town will make when the new water is turned on by reason of the disuse of expensive bottled water in the city departments. When the Ashokan water fills the mains the Fire Department will not be obliged, as it now is, to buy a special water for its employees to drink. Most citizens find the water the firemen use for extinguishing fires good enough for

all domestic purposes. The President of the Borough of Brooklyn will find Ashokan water as good as the costly beverage he drinks now, and so will the Commissioner of Bridges. The Civil Service Commission will not have to ask for \$140 to pay for irrigating its throats when the new supply is tapped, and the long way to pay for a useless but highly expensive brick road through the watershed.

Court twenty years, then marry. Headline in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The woman that deliberates is won.

While the reformers are about it let them arrange it so that there shall be good wages and sure pay for everybody, no lack of employment at any time. *Hartford Times.*

Who wants employment? The host and most leasured thinkers want steady high pay without employment. Work to the vulgar that have not the fine art of loafing.

Compelled to become a celebrity. News. So shrinking and so violet is this age.

View body turns to student life. Headline in Chicago Tribune.

Now for a minimum "curriculum."

If VICTOR BLUR does as well in administrative office as he did in time of war he will make a model record in Washington.

If the Hon. JAMES R. MANN has really discovered a nullifying error in the Public Buildings pork barrel he will have earned the non-partisan gratitude of the taxpayers all over the land.

Governor SULZER still talks as if he thinks the political subdivisions of a State hold the same relation to that State that the States hold to the Union. He never learned such a doctrine as that from the Hon. SILAS WRIGHT.

A BROOKLYN TAXPAYER.

Expensive Beautification in Connection With a Court House Site.

To the EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Permit a distressed taxpayer of the Borough of Brooklyn to draw attention to conditions here that could scarcely obtain in any other community. Some years ago the Judges under authority selected a court house site with which the Comptroller of the city and a majority of the citizens seemed satisfied.

The locality between Borough Hall and the waterfront both for residential and business purposes has rapidly deteriorated and real estate values there are at the lowest ebb. It contains a few buildings of a substantial character, one of which is owned by a newspaper corporation. Actuated by the desire for pleasant editorial notice some city "beautifiers" and others wish to devote several million dollars of our hard earned money to "improve" the locality by ornamenting and embellishing the locality. The section referred to is less than the one two-hundredth part of the borough, yet there is this loud and constant talk of tremendous expenditure in a useless attempt at reclamation.

We are perfectly willing that the "beautifiers," politicians and interested owners should do the ornamentation at their own expense, but taxpayers here have about all they can attend to for the next twenty years. We look to the Comptroller to restrain the "beautifiers" and prevent spoliation to gratify aesthetic whims of dreamers and hopes of statesmen desiring newspaper notice for future use.

The tremendous outlay to be met by this borough, now laboring under an almost unbearable burden, leaves the margin that may be used for even the improvement of the present court house very small, to say nothing of a vast expenditure for the erection of a court house anywhere at present.

The assessed valuation of all real estate in this borough having been increased enormously, indeed to the limit of endurance, the great expenditure spoken of for the purpose specified would be simply criminal waste.

The city is not to be self-supporting for many years, and there is urgent need of the most rigid economy. We rely on the good sense of the Comptroller to stand between us and the carrying out of fanciful ideas of those having expensive notions of "artistic" localities, who, finding business slipping away, strongly advocate with the "beautifying" project a palatial court house near them, for the reason that "miserly loves company." The difference in the initial cost of these expensive buildings is "artistic" and "beautifying" would be simply criminal waste.

Trying to retain business in a locality where business cannot be done is futile. To attempt to outdo the city in the quality of its public buildings is a waste of money for all purposes and for all time, and we would have an end of silly suggestions about "beautifying" and foolishly trying to retain business where it can't stay.

BROOKLYN, March 25. J. C. BENNETT.

A Centennial Polychord.

To the EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The enclosed may satisfy Mr. S. P. Ficklen of Washington, who said in THE SUN of March 23: "It has been frequently asked what I would accept as 'absolute proof' if one of the Boston Post's alleged centennarians should come to New York and, on the day of his birth, give the record of having been accepted by a life insurance company, say fifty years ago, and the date of birth as then given agrees with the one now given, I would admit it as proof."

NEW YORK, March 26. JOSEPH HARTY.

The enclosed referred to contains a list of some of the early polychordists of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. This company began business in 1853. Boston Post's alleged centennarians who said in THE SUN of March 23: "It has been frequently asked what I would accept as 'absolute proof' if one